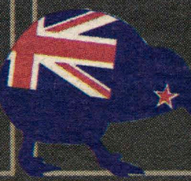
UP ALL NIGHT

Read **page 6** to learn about Hamilton's new 24-hour online librarian assistance for all-nighters.

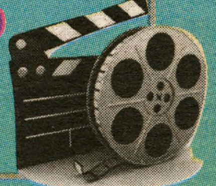


THE RETURN OF THE KIWI

Learn about junior Alex Cates's semester abroad and hunt for the endangered kiwi on page 7.

FILM-FILLED WEEKEND

See **page 10** for a review of Hamilton's first feature film and winners of the 24-hour film festival.



THE SPECTATOR

Thursday,
Dec. 12 2013

Volume LIV Number 12

Hamilton remembers Madiba

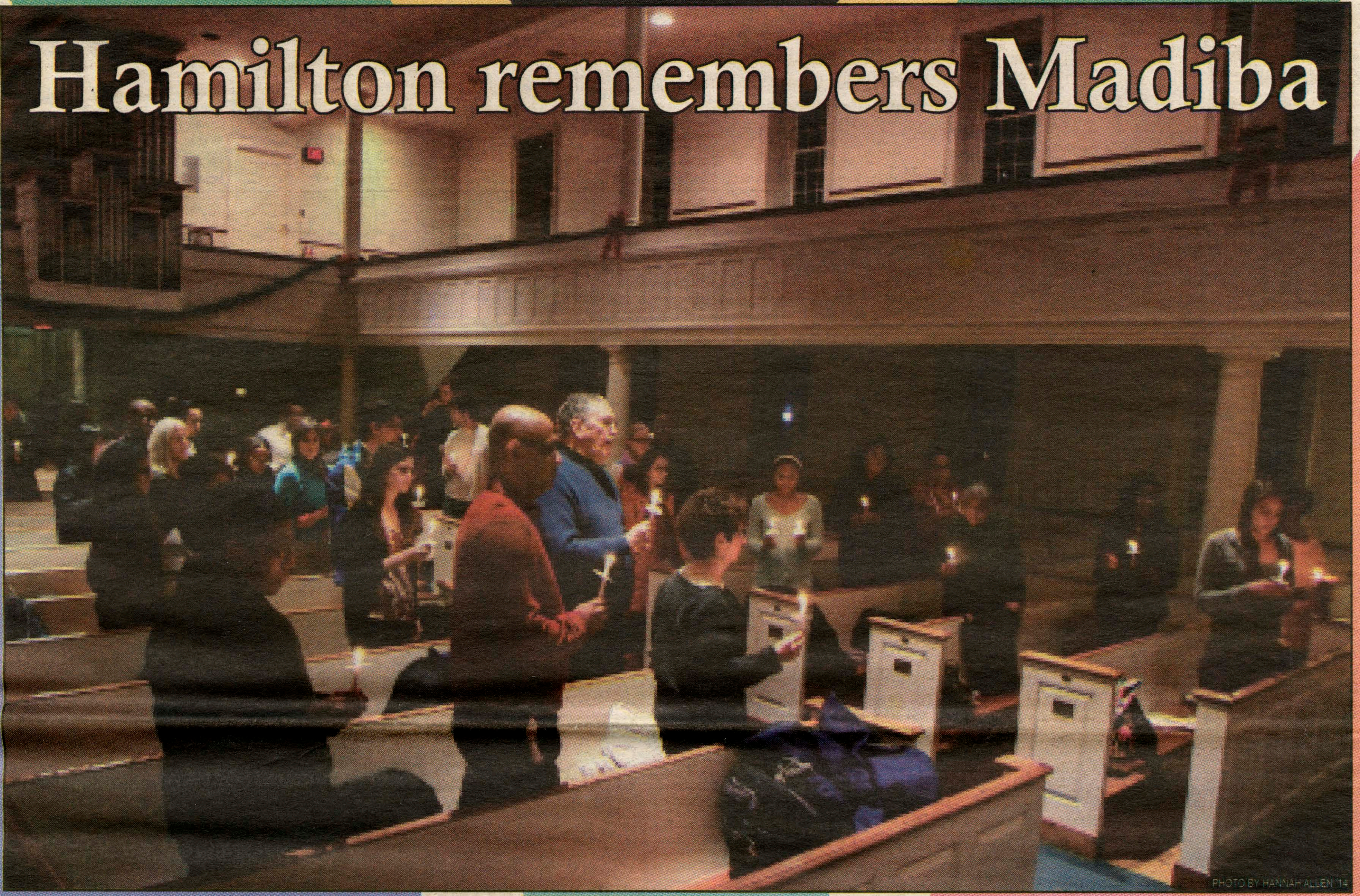
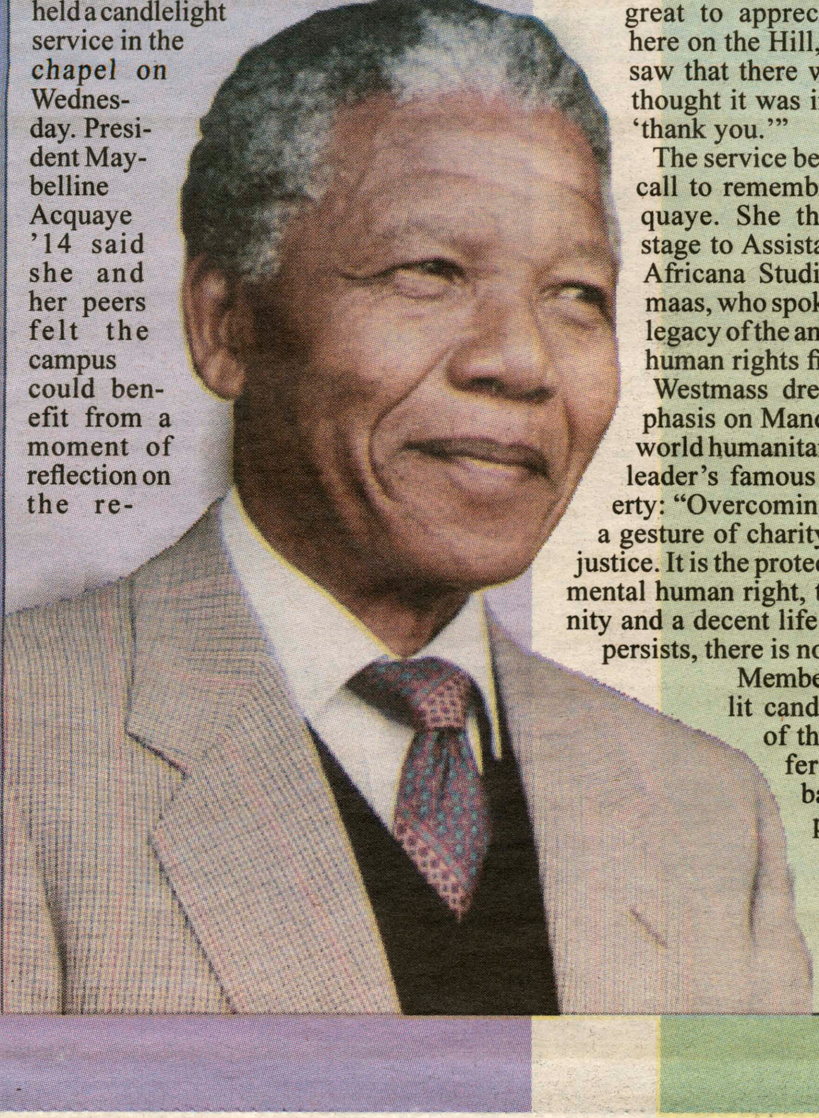


PHOTO BY HANNAH ALLEN '14



To mark the passing of Nelson Mandela, BLSU held a candlelight service in the chapel on Wednesday. President Maybelline Acquaye '14 said she and her peers felt the campus could benefit from a moment of reflection on the remarkable South African leader.

"We thought it would be great to appreciate [Mandela] here on the Hill," she said. "We saw that there was interest and thought it was important to say 'thank you.'"

The service began with a short call to remembrance from Acquaye. She then offered the stage to Assistant Professor of Africana Studies Nigel Westmaas, who spoke on the life and legacy of the anti-apartheid and human rights figure.

Westmass drew specific emphasis on Mandela's work as a world humanitarian, sharing the leader's famous words on poverty: "Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life. While poverty persists, there is no true freedom."

Members of BLSU then lit candles in the front of the chapel, transferring the flame back through the pews, candle-to-candle, as a moment of silence was observed in Mandela's honor.

"Mandela [was] a man of collective action, humanity and leadership…a warrior and reconciling chief."

—Assistant Professor of Africana Stuies Nigel Westmaas

"As BLSU, we thought it would be great to appreciate [Mandela] here on the Hill... and thought it was important to say 'thank you.' One person can make such a difference."

—Maybelline Acquaye '14

"He is a really inspirational figure on a global scale, like Martin Luther King or Malcolm X. He saw something wrong with a country and sought to change it, not only within that country, but in the world."

—Frantron Green '14

Senior Gift participation estimated to surpass benchmark goals

by Kaitlin McCabe '16
News Editor

Throughout the Class of 2014's final fall semester on the Hill, the Senior Gift Committee has adamantly worked to reach its goal of 98 percent participation. Should the class meet this amount, it will fulfill President Stewart's Presidential Participation Challenge.

The committee is still working on processing the gifts that were made toward the Senior Gift Campaign last Thursday, Dec. 5 in order to obtain an accurate total by this Friday or upcoming Monday of next week. Though the total has yet to be determined, the group is confident that it has not simply reached its designated goal but surpassed it.

According to Assistant Director of Annual Giving and committee member Christopher Jacobsen, "A safe estimate at this time would be that we've reached 72 percent participation, though I'm starting to think it may be a tad higher than that."

Senior Gift has played a significant role in the operation and unity of the Hamilton campus since the fund's founding in 1982, when there was a 61 percent participation rate. Since the tradition first began, classes have aspired to out-perform their predecessors.

In the past, Senior Gifts have included an Environmental Endowment Fund (2008), an Arts Initiative (2011) and a research grant in honor of deceased Hamilton student Alex Paganelli '12 (2012) Last year, the Senior Gift was an all-purpose outdoor sports court.

At the Sept. 26 Kickoff Reception earlier this semester, Hamilton's Class of 2014 announced the result of its Senior Gift survey: a terrace at the Siuda House Admission Office. The gift serves as a symbol, commemorating the class as the first to have a need-blind admissions policy. The terrace will function as a communal space and include an outdoor seating area. The Class of 2013 Gift has been the largest physical gift in Hamilton's history.

As a part of the Participation Challenge, President Stewart has offered to contribute a maximum of $10,000 to the campaign if the following benchmarks are met: 25 percent by Nov 11, 50 percent by Dec. 13, 75 percent by March 14 and 90 percent by May 1, the deadline for the Senior Gift.

The Class of 2014 Senior Gift Committee has already raised donations that extend beyond the first two participation benchmarks. In fact, based upon the group's estimation, the Committee is on the verge of reaching the third benchmark in the very near future, far sooner than expected. This data will be clarified within the course of the next confirmed.

Though the Senior Gift committee still has a substantial amount of money to raise in order to reach its goal, it is clear that the current group has noticeably outpaced the progress of previous senior classes. Jacobsen noted that, for example, the Class of 2013 had only received 25 percent of its desired donations by this time last year.

If participation continues to increase at this impressive rate, there is no doubt that the Class of 2014 will take the coveted President's Cup—an honorary award given to the class with the highest senior gift participation—away from the Class of 2007.

Finals prep gone to the dogs

PHOTO BY HANNAH ALLEN '14

Rebecca Mullaley '17, Polly Bruce '17, Nathalia Mahabir '17 and James Hunter '17 bond with Fizz and staff of the Rome Humane Society.

This semester's Paws & Relax event brought Fizz, a black and white Terrier/Pit Bull mix, to the Tolles Pavilion on Wednesday, Dec. 11 to provide some stress relief for the upcoming week of studying and finals. The event, sponsored by HAVOC in association with Active Minds, has become a pre-finals tradition. Participating students donated $5 to the Rome Humane Society in order to socialize and decompress with the dog. Fizz, like all other dogs at the Rome Humane Society, is up for adoption.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. The entire report is available in the online edition of *The Spectator.* Both Campus Safety and *The*

Friday December 6, 2013

12:34 a.m.	Noise Complaint – Ferguson Hall
12:44 a.m.	Noise Complaint – Milbank Hall
10:46 p.m.	Noise Complaint – Bundy East

Saturday December 7, 2013

12:05 a.m.	Noise Complaint – Milbank Hall
12:25 a.m.	Marijuana Complaint – Babbitt Hall
1:00 a.m.	Noise Complaint – Babbitt Hall
1:03 a.m.	Marijuana Complaint – Dunham Hall
2:32 a.m.	Noise Complaint – South Hall
6:17 a.m.	Elevator Alarm Activation – Skenandoa House
11:01 a.m.	Fire Alarm Activation – Sadove Student Center

Sunday December 8, 2013

12:05 a.m.	Smoke Detector Activation – Dunham Hall
1:05 a.m.	Noise Complaint – Milbank Hall
1:52 a.m.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
2:58 a.m.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Leadership Weekend celebrates giving and the future of the College

by Kaitlin McCabe '16
News Editor

The 1812 Leadership Circle Weekend held in Manhattan this past weekend, Dec. 6-7, powerfully proves that Hamilton pride extends far beyond the Hill. This year, some 400 alumni, parents and friends of the College participated in the weekend's series of activities—ranging from seminars to baking lessons—in order to celebrate the successful close of the Bicentennial Initiatives campaign.

A notable feature of the Hamilton community is its remarkable history of support from alumni, parents and friends. The 1812 Leadership Circle, a prestigious honor for Hamilton supporters, recognizes Hamilton's most generous financial donors, whose contributions form a living endowment that directly sponsors Hamilton's educational opportunities, supporting and improving the quality of students, faculty and the environment of the College.

On Friday, the Hamilton Board of Trustees held its quarterly meeting in conjunction with the 1812 Leadership Circle Weekend. During this particular meeting, trustees of the College disscused ideas to improve the physical and academic culture of the campus. Specifically, members authorized plans for the renovation of Minor Theater into a residence hall, as well as for the construction of a locker room addition to Sage Rink.

Another significant decision made this weekend was the passing of a resolution promoting Associate Professors David Bailey and *Todd Rayne of the Geosciences Department* to the rank of Professor. These decisions are effective starting January 1.

Other topics of discussion included the 2014 budget and campus priorities.

During lunch and the afternoon, the Board heard presentations on emerging initiatives and priorities in academics by Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Pat Reynolds, and in athletics by Athletics Director Jon Hind. Ambassador Prudence Bushnell also shared developments in the Levitt Leadership Institute.

The weekend's seminar speakers included women's lacrosse head coach Patty Kloidt, Winslow Professor of Classics Carl A. Rubino, and Edmund A. LeFevre Professor of English emeritus John H. O'Neill. Publius Virgilius Rogers Professor of American History Maurice Isserman and Walter Cronkite IV '11 also joined to discuss their new book, *Cronkite's War: His World War II Letters Home.* The book is a blend of personal correspondences between CBS news reporter Cronkite—Cronkite IV's grandfather—and his wife, Betsy, between 1943 and 1945. It also includes selections from Cronkite's wartime dispatches and a contextual narrative.

Hamilton affiliates in attendeance were able to participate in a pastry-making workshop with Steven Durfey '85, following which Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Saks Incorporated Steve Sadove '73 spoke during the group dinner. Throughout the meal, the College Hill Singers provided entertainment.

The various decisions made this past weekend will no doubt have a large, lasting impact on the Hamilton community, both students and alums.

Student Assembly Update

by Julia Grace Brimelow '14
News Editor

Staff Appreciation Project

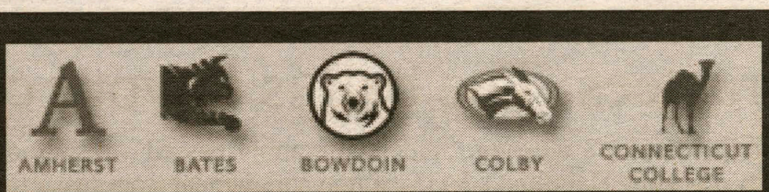
In an effort to thank Hamilton's non-student employees, four "appreciation stations" will be set up around campus next Wednesday during Physical Plant's 9:00 a.m. break slot. The "stations," set up in the Kirner Johnson building, Physical Plant, Science Center and Bristol Center will provide a spread of breakfast foods from Bon Appetit and Dunkin Donuts. Student Assembly will also spearhead the organization of a thank you note writing campaign and will distribute these cards to each school employee.

Update on Divestment Resolution

SA passed a Divestment Resolution after review and discussion. The resolution addresses the College's investment strategy and pushes the Board of Trustees to "judiciously [divest] from fossil fuels" in order to fufill its social responsibility, given the serious threat of global climate change.

The proposal calls for the gradual divestment of the College's endowment from fossil fuels, while acknowledging its fiduciary responsibility. Divestment should occur without "putting Hamilton's future at unnecessary financial risk." Balancing financial and social responsibility, the proposal calls for prority to be given to divestment from the most environmentally devastating fossil fuels, such as dirty coal.

SA passed the resolution after deciding that divestment iteslf does not have to be an unsustainable, radical financial decision. SA explained, "This resolution sends a message to the Board of Trustees about the direction we want the College to take on this issue, rather than prescribing a very specific course of action."



NESCAC NEWS

by Brian Sobotko '16
News Writer

Middleburry launches environmental writing conference

Middlebury College announced last week that it had teamed up with the award winning nature-oriented magazine, *Orion* to launch The Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writers' Conference. Middlebury's Environmental Studies Program, which is the oldest undergraduate environmental studies program in the nation, will co-sponsor the week-long conference that begins in 2014. According to a press release from Middlebury, the intensive program "is designed for those who want to bring more depth of knowledge and understanding to their writing about the environment and the world."

"Middlebury and , share a longstanding commitment to sustainability and a dedication to nurturing high-quality writing," said Nan Jenks-Jay, Dean of Environmental Affairs. The conference is modeled on The Middlebury Bread Loaf Writers' Conference (BLWC), which has included participants like Robert Frost, John Irving and Julia Alvarez. Michael Collier, director of the BLWC, and H. Emerson Blake, Editor in Chief of *Orion*, will serve as co-directors of the new conference.

"Since its inception in 1926, the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference has cultivated a close relationship with nature and environmental writing," explained Collier "Our collaboration with *Orion* and the Middlebury Environmental Studies Program will allow us to deepen those relationships by bringing the Bread Loaf model of workshops and literary discussion to encourage and support the finest environmental writing in America."

Amherst College Republicans bring Newt Gingrich to campus

The Amherst College Republicans brought former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich to campus this week. Gingrich, who currently appears on CNN's Crossfire is the second great names guest for the Amherst Republicans in less than a year. The group brought former Massachusetts Senator Scott Brown to campus last winter.

The College Republicans, which had been dormant for about a decade, were revived about a year and a half ago following conversations between Robert Lucido '15 and Professor of Political Science Thomas Dumm.

"I myself am deeply opposed to many of the policies, and in general the destructive attitudes of so many prominent members of the current GOP. That said, there should be lively discussion on our campus, and without voices from the right to serve as a foil to our more dominant, progressive students, that discussion won't happen," explained Dumm.

After leading an initiative last semester called "The Resurgence," to raise money, Lucido teamed up with the Young America's foundation while also securing funding from Amherst, UMass and Smith who are cosponsoring the talk.

MIDDLEBURY
TRINITY
TUFTS
WESLEYAN
WILLIAMS

Trustees: The ball is in your court

During Monday's meeting, Student Assembly passed a resolution in favor of gradually divesting Hamilton's $635 million endowment from fossil fuel companies by a vote of 26 to 3. The divestment resolution grew out of months of work by the student-run committee, Hamilton Divests, and is a part of the national movement led by environmental activist Bill McKibben to have institutions divest from fossil fuels. Of course, the Student Assembly resolution does not mean Hamilton will start divesting immediately, but rather that the student body strongly encourages the Board of Trustees to "fulfill our social responsibility by judiciously divesting from fossil fuels… while not incurring unnecessary or unacceptable losses to the endowment."

While most Hamilton students are unaware of or apathetic about this effort to slow the changing of the world's climate, this week's resounding vote in support of the resolution reflects the positive changes and compromises made to the resolution since the Dec. 2 meeting; only 11 representatives voted in favor of the earlier divestment resolution. Those who voted against the Dec. 2 resolution or abstained from voting cited concerns about harming the school's endowment—which puts millions of dollars toward financial aid, diversity initiatives, and student internship funding—and treating all fossil fuels and fossil fuel companies as if they were equally bad. The Dec. 9 addressed both of those concerns. *The Spectator* supports Hamilton Divests and Student Assembly for compromising and working to put the student body behind a more global cause than debating campus housing concerns or approving organization budget proposals.

Yet, in terms of substantive effect, the jury is still out on the divestment resolution. The Board of Trustees can ignore this resolution and, even if they do decide to meet with Hamilton Divests, the "standard of unacceptable loss" remains to be determined. Moreover, no other comparable collegiate institution has divested their fossil fuel holdings due to a lack of alternative investment portfolios and uncertainty about whether such an action would ever amount to more than symbolism.

If Hamilton's Board of Trustees and student negotiators can find that missing balance, though—moving funds out of the most-polluting companies without sacrificing our fiduciary responsibilities—than Hamilton would be a leader among our peers, and divestment would deserve more than a mere resolution. *The Spectator* encourages all such efforts.

It is easy to be cynical about environmental activism at a wealthy liberal arts school like Hamilton. After all, many of us bemoan the excessive amount of CO2 in the atmosphere while also demanding that our rooms stay constantly heated, that a washing machine remain open and that an outlet is always available to plug in our electronic devices. While acknowledging that we are all hypocritical at some level, we must not let the imperfections of life prevent us from making a positive difference where we can. The issue of divestment, alongside other environmental efforts like matching our buildings to LEED energy-efficiency standards and reducing plastic water bottle use, offer Hamilton a chance to make that difference. Let's not let the moment go to waste.

The Spectator editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.

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A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication.
The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely and high-quality publication.**

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The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

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New SAT raises questions about need for standardized testing

By Patrick English '15
Opinion Editor

Watch out admissions officers, there's a new standardized test coming to town. For the second time in the last decade, the College Board is planning to redesign its Scholastic Assessment Test, or SAT.

The College Board announced its redesign in February of 2013, shortly after the American College Testing (ACT) exam surpassed the SAT as the most widely taken admissions test. The ACT continues to gain momentum, and it is expected to overtake the SAT in market share within the next two years. The ACT received praise for being more aligned with the high school curriculum and Common Core State Standards.

The last time the SAT's format changed was in 2005, when the College Board added a writing section. This change was controversial and took a while to take effect in higher education. Several institutions dismissed the writing section altogether when looking at SAT scores for admissions.

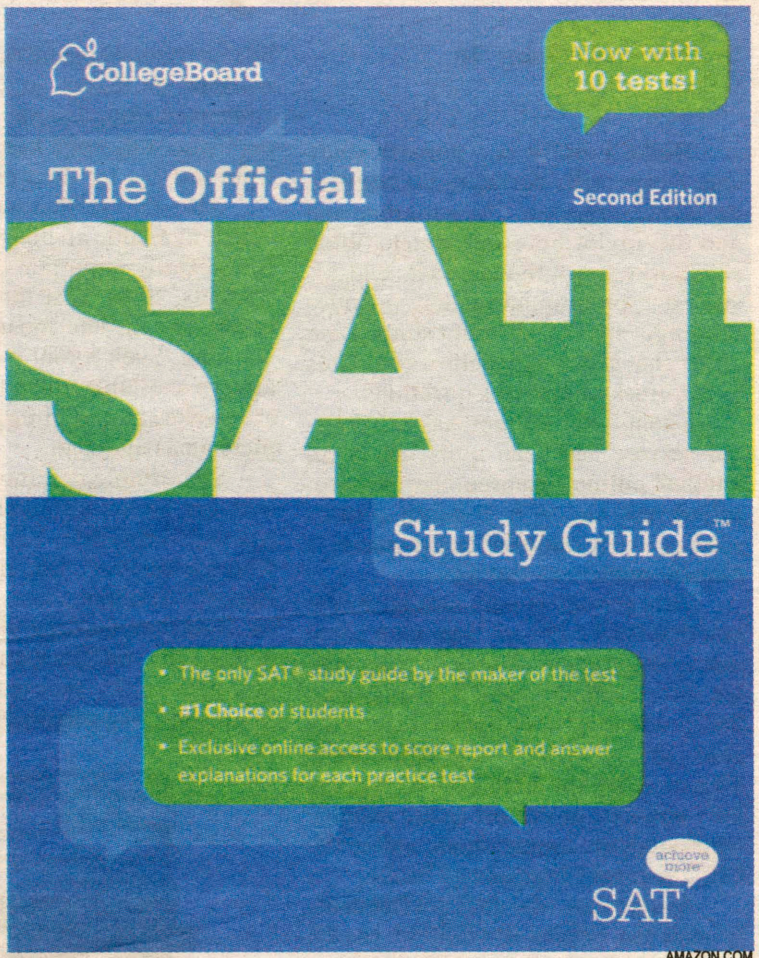
The revisions that will appear in the 2016 SAT are extremely vague. College Board CEO David Coleman, who previously served as an architect of the Common Core curriculum standards, pointed to vocabulary words and the possible addition of source *material for the essay section as po*tential changes. However, the new SAT's main goal is simply to better prepare students for the college curriculum.

The new SAT was originally set for Spring 2015 release, but that date was pushed back to Spring 2016 about a week ago. The College Board cites preparation of higher education institutions as the reason for this change. With the response from higher education to past changes in the test, this reason seems hardly relevant. The vague description of the changes also means that these institutions have little to prepare for when they do not know what to expect.

Without a new SAT, the ACT should continue to gain momentum and test takers. It is hard to understand the change in date if the SAT is only trying to respond to the ACT's preference among students. The ACT is likely to continue to gain speed as current high school juniors and seniors apply for college. Therefore, the SAT may have other motives behind moving back the release of the new test.

Over the past decade, a number of colleges have grown more lenient on standardized testing. Several colleges have backed out of testing altogether, choosing to focus more on high school grade point average. This move has allowed SAT-optional colleges such as Drew University in New Jersey to admit more diverse classes of students. Hamilton, for one, has given students many options in terms of submitting tests. Applicants can submit the standard SAT or ACT, but also have the option to submit three tests from a list of accepted tests—one quantitative, one verbal and one of the student's choice. The list includes a variety of choices from individual sections of the SAT to SAT subject tests, Advanced Placement (AP) tests, and International Baccalaureate (IB) Tests.

With all the changes in standardized testing over the last decade, it is only a matter of time before more colleges make the decision to do away with it all together. This is probably the best strategy, as these tests still seem to play to certain groups. Prep classes will always be available for standardized tests, and these classes benefit those with higher incomes who can afford them. Despite the variation that schools like Hamilton allow, there will never be enough tests to accommodate every one. Admissions departments know enough about most high schools that a combination of grade point average and an assessment of the difficulty of each high school should be enough to determine whether a student is prepared for a college curriculum.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Preparatory books and classes, like this one provided by the College Board, have clouded the results of standardized tests.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
Student Assembly Elections: Whoever gets the JoanCare website to work has my vote.	Formal this Weekend: Finish writing Women's Studies paper criticizing the heteronormativity of Hamilton while waiting for that boy to finally ask you to formal.	Juniors going abroad: Is an all expenses paid 6 month vacation to France really worth all the goodbye tears?
Choreography showcase: Definitive proof that you've never looked good while dancing in the Annex.	Course Evaluations: Please write to the Dean of Students about how much the Ladies of Thumbs Up Thumbs Down deserve tenure. We could really use some job security.	*Red Weather* Release Party: Not sure how to interpret poetry but still want to attend? Throw around the words "prose," "metre," "alliteration," "pinot grigio," "sonnet," and you're set!
Open mic: That quiet sophomore in your history class, like a capella groups, sings a beautiful song. Unlike a capella grounds, didn't beg for your attendance for the entire week leading up to the performance.	Health Center Evaluation: Didn't get around to filling out the survey. I'm only free from 9-4, no later, no weekends, oh, and I take a lunch break from 12-1.	*Scandal* Viewing Party: The show is pretty heated, but there could be no greater scandal than seeing your 20-year-old RA have a light beer in the Annex.

by Wynn Van Dusen '15, Carrie Solomon '16 and Jessye McGarry '16

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

Letter to the Editor:

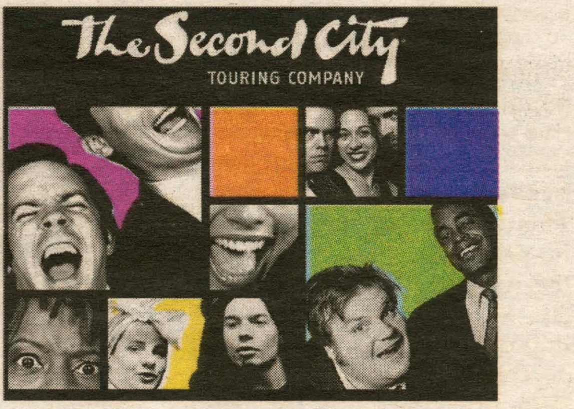
The late New York State Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan was apparently fond of saying, "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts."

A letter by Paul Streitz in the Dec. 5 *Spectator* offered a strong opinion about the cost of higher education but, as is often the case with Mr. Streitz, many of the claims in his writings tend to be fabrications or misrepresentations, e.g., claims about college salaries and costs.

Hamilton has protected the quality of its academic program while controlling costs and exhibiting leadership in ensuring access for students of limited means. And those are the facts.

—Mike Debraggio
Assistant Vice President for Communications

Good luck next semester, Wynn!



We'll miss you!

24/7 library service will help students

by Courtney Kaplar '16
Opinion Editor

Burke Library is a popular study space, especially during finals week, as are Kirner-Johnson, Christian Johnson and the Taylor Science Center. What sets Burke apart, though, is its end-of-semester programming that includes late-night snacks, all-night study room and a chat service that allows students to ask Burke librarians questions.

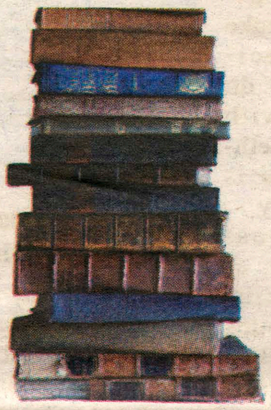
Though the current Ask a Librarian service has been quite effective, another online resource chat service, called Ask Us 24/7, is being considered as a new addition to the library's already numerous features.

This service is very similar to the one that Burke already has, with some minor differences. For example, Ask Us 24/7 is understandably available 24/7, whereas the Burke reference chat service is only accessible until 10 p.m. Also, the librarians on Ask Us 24/7 could be anywhere in the country when students contact them, unlike the Clinton-local librarians of Burke.

As someone who does not frequently visit the library to study or search for materials, I cannot definitely say whether this 24/7 service would be completely beneficial and worthwhile to our library's current programming. Burke librarians would have to receive formal training about how to use this new system if Hamilton decides to implement it. The service, however, could be an extremely useful tool for seniors working on theses, as well as other students writing lengthy research papers who will need help finding the right sources for their essays.

Also, the fact that such a resource can be available all hours of the night is especially important because most students, or at least the ones who I know, are up late most weeknights working. Such a tool would then be always available, even to those who are awake at 4 a.m. struggling to complete an assignment.

Since implementing Ask Us 24/7 will not be unreasonably expensive and would definitely be an aid to those who use this tool, why not bring it to Burke? The library exists as a resource for Hamilton College students, so it makes sense that we would seek ways to improve its accessibility—even small ones, like adopting Ask Us 24/7.



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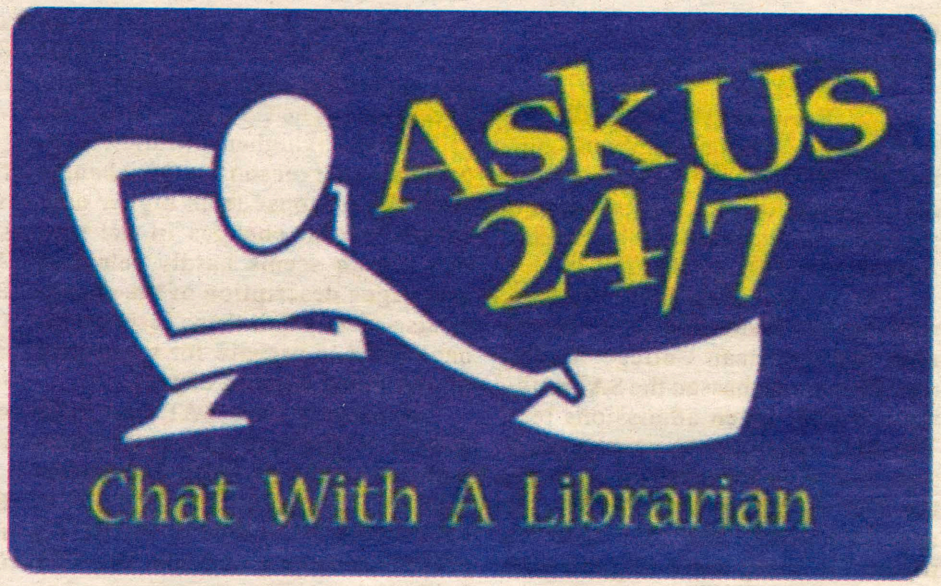


NCLS.NORTHCOUNTRYLIBRARIES.ORG

Burke Library is considering the addition of a new 24/7 librarian service to help students at all hours of the night, rather than stopping at 10 p.m.

Important Services the Library Provides

Comprehensive Collections:

- Over 1,800 printed volumes on the Lesser Antilles
- Utica Imprints
- Polar Exploration
- Couper Press

Subject and Course Guides

Three Ways to Ask Librarians:

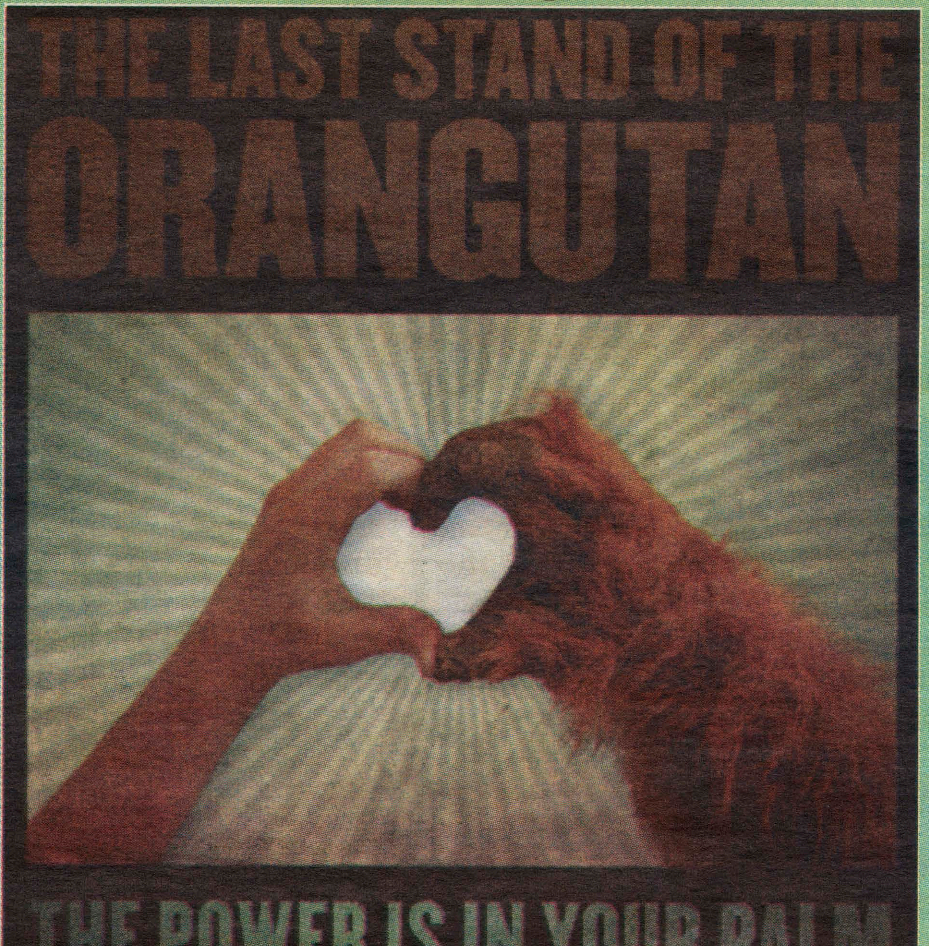
- Talk to a Librarian at the Burke Info Desk, Call at 315-859-4735 or email at askref@hamilton.edu
- Make an Appointment
- Consult a Guide

An Extensive Music Library Collection

HEAG's Corner: Palm oil may result in deforestation

By Alice Henry '14
HEAG Member

A battle is waging in Southeast Asia, and your crackers, cookies and candy are fighting in it. Your snack food could have dire consequences for the Earth if you do not speak up and join the movement for responsibly sourced palm oil. The Rainforest Action Network (RAN), a nonprofit organization heading the campaign for responsible palm oil, calls it "Conflict-Free palm oil." This is not a boycott movement, but a movement to make palm oil sourcing more transparent and accountable. Outlined here are the issue, the movement and the initial results.


THE LAST STAND OF THE ORANGUTAN
THE POWER IS IN YOUR PALM

What is palm oil and why is it a big issue?

Palm oil is derived from oil palms. In past years, it gained popularity as a cheap alternative to lard in food because of its similar consistencies and properties (solid at room temperature). This has led to rising demands in palm oil, particularly from the American snack food industry. RAN reports that Palm oil imports have increased by 485 percent in the last decade alone. Palm oil is currently the leading cause of deforestation in Indonesia and Malaysia, and a leading cause in other equatorial tropical rainforests. Swathes of forest, oftentimes carbon rich peat land swamp rainforest, are cut down to grow palm plantations. Such development has a huge impact on greenhouse gases; Indonesia is the third largest greenhouse gas emitter (behind the U.S. and China), and 85 percent of those emissions are due to rainforest and peat land destruction. The destruction of these environments also has a huge effect on the fauna; Indonesia is one of the biodiversity hotspots of the world, and our close relative, the orangutan, is one of the species most threatened by deforestation there.

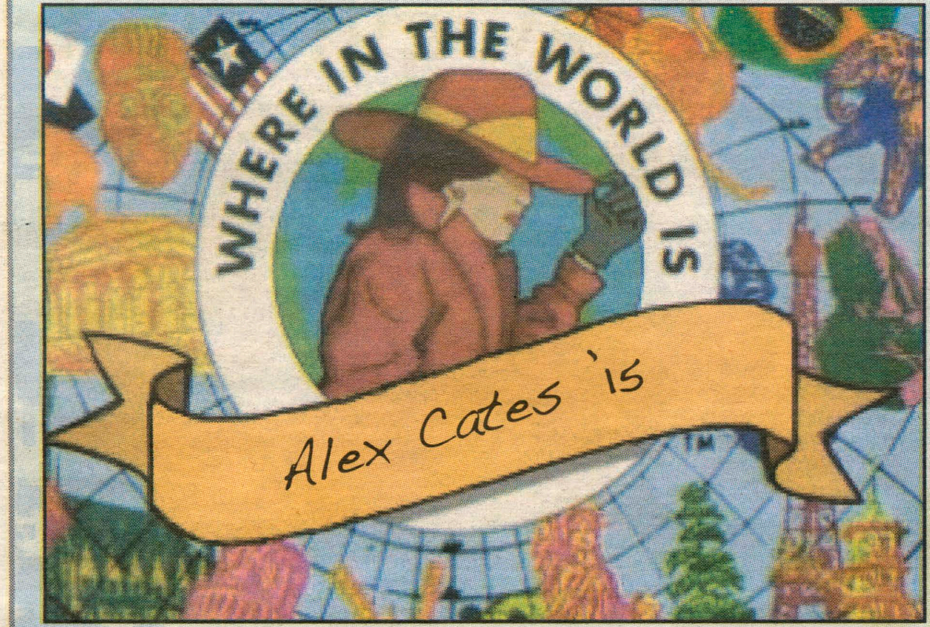
What action is being taken?

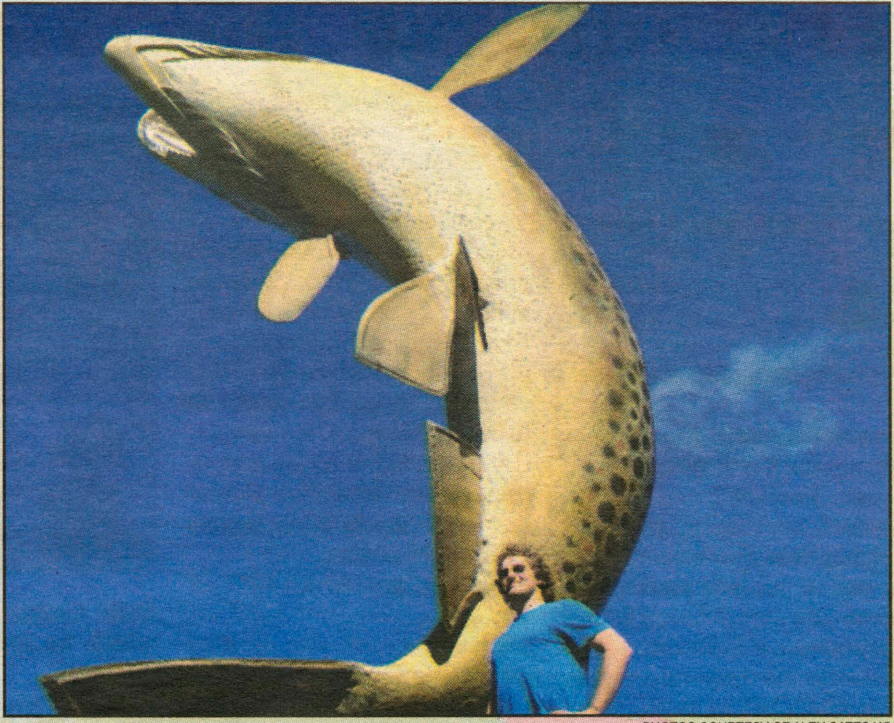
RAN has started a campaign petitioning the "Snack Food 20" to commit to tracking their sources of palm oil and then to source palm oil only from plantations free of deforestation, development of peat lands and human rights violations. The Snack Food 20 include: Campbell Soup Company; ConAgra Foods, Inc.; Dunkin' Brands Group, Inc.; and General Mills, Inc. Visit ran.org/palm-oil for more information on the campaign and the "In Your Palm" photo petition.

What changes have been made?

This movement has been pretty efective thus far, and continues to get bigger. The world's largest palm oil company, Wilmar, has committed to avoid sourcing palm oil produced on peatlands (regardless of their depth) or on plantations that resulted in the deforestation of high carbon stock (HCS) forests or high conservation value (HCV) areas. Wilmar controls 45 percent of global trade in palm oil, and this commitment will therefore set a standard for other companies and have other potentially transformative effects.

Want to become an active part in changing the palm oil industry? Come visit HEAG and see what we have in store.


WHERE IN THE WORLD IS
Alex Cates '15
TM


PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALEX CATES '15

Alex Cates '15 poses with a giant fish during his time abroad.

by Alex Cates '15
Features Contributor

There were a number of things that I was looking forward to when I left home for a semester in New Zealand I was excited to seeing the countryside. New Zealand is known for its gorgeous landscapes, which have been used as the backdrops of many movies, most notably *Lord of the Rings*. I couldn't wait to get immersed in the rugby culture—particularly the All Blacks, who have been the standard of excellence in the sport for the past 100 years. But most of all I was anxious to see a little bird that is known all around the world. The kiwi, a small flightless bird *that looks like a puffball with legs*, is found only in New Zealand and has been the primary target of their conservation efforts after the species was nearly destroyed by European stoats. Needless to say, I was looking forward to seeing this incredible bird and made many attempts to do so.

The first endeavor was a camping trip to Mount Aspiring. Kiwi birds still inhabit a few areas in the wild, although others live on sanctuaries throughout the three islands. We spent the afternoon hiking to the cabin where we were to spend the night. I was hoping to hear the kiwis' song that night, but sadly there were none to be heard, probably because no kiwis actually lived in the area—a fact I found out later. However, the next day included a hike up the mountain to see the Rob Roy Glacier. If you have never seen a glacier, it is really something to see. You follow the mountain up until you reach the glacier line at which point a wall of ice rises eight feet in the air. We hiked up the mountain facing the glacier, which was a good idea, as we witnessed an avalanche happen across the valley from us in a grand rumble. Overall it was a fantastic time, even if I did not see a kiwi.

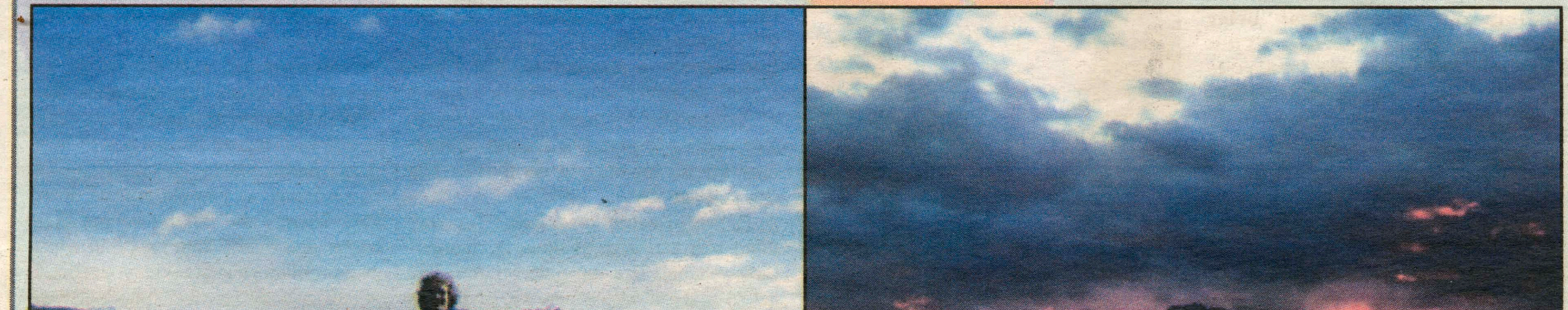
The second attempt was about a month later, with my program. We went on a trip to Doubtful Sound, a large inlet of water that is extremely isolated from the rest of New Zealand. The isolation gives the entire area a pure feeling, as it has been largely untouched by humanity. The sound was carved by glaciers, creating a body of water that is surrounded by cliffs, with trees clinging to sheer rock faces that make the whole area feel like the Jurassic period, with dinosaurs ready to jump out at any moment. I was excited for the night to come in order to hopefully hear some kiwis. When night fell we all went up onto the decks and looked around us. While it was too dark to spot any kiwis, we were able to see the night sky.

There are few things more incredible than a night sky that is free of any light pollution. We saw innumerable stars so densely packed that there were places where we thought we could see the sun. There were even a few shooting stars to make the entire moment perfect. And then just as we were leaving the deck we heard the kiwis. They were calling throughout the surrounding forests and it was a great end to an incredible day. However, I still had not seen a kiwi.

The final try was a trip to Queenstown, the adventure capital of New Zealand, where kiwis are on display in an extremely touristy aviary. While there I was told the thing I needed to do was jet boating, and in particular the shot over jet. So at 8:00 in the morning we donned our life vests and splash jackets and got into the boat at the shot over jet. Jet boating, as I found out, is racing around in a boat powered the same way as a jet ski. What this allows for is immense control over the boat, including the ability to do 360° spins in place. What the shot over jet does is take these boats and stick them in a canyon, driving the boat so close to the canyon wall that you always feel like you are going to crash. At one point the canyon wall came slanting out towards us and the boat did a 360° spin so that the nose dipped below the wall. It was exhilarating and one of the most memorable experiences of New Zealand. After the ride we had a choice—we could ride again for a fraction of the cost, or we could go to the bird park. We debated which we would rather do, and in the end decided that experiencing the shot over jet again would be more memorable than seeing a kiwi in a cage. My quest for a kiwi was over, and I decided not to finish it. That afternoon we went horseback riding to Isengard. The next day we went to Milford Sound and showered in a waterfall. Overall, it was one of the best weekends of my time there (if not the best) and I regret none of it.

So, I never did see a kiwi. I had many adventures trying to do so, including those I just told you about, and so much more. I saw seals, penguins and dolphins. I saw tuis, takahis and peacock. But I never saw a live kiwi. It's okay, though. The experiences I had looking for them, the friends I made, the environments I saw—they were all incredible.

So to close with some cheesy advice for everyone who's going abroad: Make sure you go into wherever you are with an idea of what you want to see and what you want to do, but do not be afraid to change it on the fly, take what's thrown at you and enjoy it.


Left: Cates basks in the presence of New Zealand's awe-inspiring topography. Right: A sunset on the beach in Dunedin.

The official *Spectator* holiday gift guide

by Bonnie Wertheim '14
Editor-in-Chief

PATRICKWILLEMS.WORDPRESS.COM

Seth Cohen wraps identical Starter Packs for his crushes, Summer and Anna, in which he includes Death Cab for Cutie's *Transatlanticism* and a DVD of *The Goonies*.

Still stumped about what to buy for the folks on your Nice List this holiday season? We're here to help.

If you're shopping for...

Your other half: Buying gifts for a significant other can be tough. You want to give your partner something practical yet fun, that also reminds him or her of you and shows how much you care. Most gifts can accomplish a few of these objectives, but very rarely does one fulfill all of them. Meet matching onesies—wearable (either alone or together), silly and they say, "I want to keep you warm this winter." What could be better than that?

HIGHSNOBETTE.COM

llbean.com, his and hers two-layer union suits ($59 each)

Your *other* other half: Conversely, best friends are probably the easiest people to get gifts for, as you probably have common tastes and countless inside jokes. You could probably find a million appropriate gifts for someone you're this close to, but a sentimental object can sometimes have a greater effect. We recommend making a scrapbook for your BFF this year either easily using Shutterfly, or by making one yourself after taking a quick trip to the craft store. Alternatively, if your friend is an Instagram user, you can transform nine of his or her 'grams into magnets using StickyGram.
Shutterfly, photobook ($11.69 and up)
stickygram.com, set of nine photo magnets ($14.99)

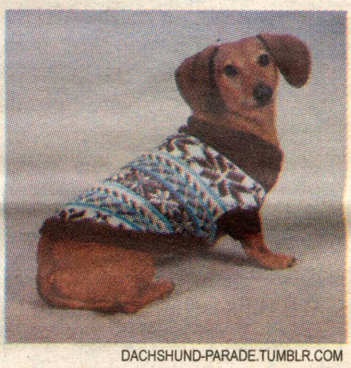
Parents and Siblings: Every time my dad comes up to Hamilton, he makes sure to remind me that I go to school in "heaven." I imagine most Hamilton parents, and probably some Hamilton siblings, feel a similar kind of envy when they visit the Hill. Though the Hamilton Bookstore no longer has a stock of Hamilton Mom and Dad T-shirts, you can still outfit your immediate family members in apparel from the school they probably love as much as you do.
Hamilton College Bookstore, sweatshirts ($30-50, now 25% off)

Person you just started dating: You and your new boo got together two weeks ago, and of course, neither of you had the holiday gifting season in mind at the time. What do you do? Pretend it isn't happening? That's one option, for sure, but you could also opt for gifting a Starter Pack. Any former *O.C.* fan will know this format from the first Chrismukkah episode of the show. Buy (or burn) copies of your favorite CDs, books, movies, etc. and give those to him or her. It's a thoughtful gift and way for your new partner to learn more about you.
Best Buy, Target, Barnes & Noble ($0-25)

Coworkers: Though you may not know it, the Clinton CVS has a section solely dedicated to As Seen on TV™ products. Though these rarely are necessary for, well, anything, they do make great gag gifts. If you're going to an office holiday party this semester and have to participate in a Yankee Swap, As Seen on TV™ might be your best bet.
CVS, As Seen on TV™ products ($5 and up)

Grandparents: When you were younger, you probably got away with a lot of iterations on the same theme of "grandparent gifts," e.g. necklaces with familial figurines and "#1 Grandpa" mugs. Now, your grandparents' houses are full of these items. But what they probably don't have is a Clinton Pottery bowl, cup, mug or plate. This year, get your grandparents a gift that they can't find elsewhere.
Clinton Pottery, ceramic housewares ($20 and up)

Pets: Because even our furry friends could use some extra warmth in the wintertime.
amazon.com, cat and dog sweaters ($10-30)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Ask Anne

The Spectator's Advice Column

By Anna Hilburn '14
Advice Columnist

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANNE HILBURN '14

Q: My friend seems to have some questionable hygiene habits. For example, she doesn't brush her hair, wash her clothes, etc. It's beginning to get off putting and I have trouble being around her. She's a great friend, I just wish shed take better care of herself. Is there a way to politely bring this up?—*I'm With Smelly*
A: This is tough one because that talk can go bad really quickly, but there's also no polite to start this conversation. I'd start with the clothes because that sounds like it's the greater issue. Don't bring it up like you're speaking on behalf of other friends. If you're worried about how she takes care of herself then start with that. Tell her that you've noticed that she's been letting herself go in terms of hygiene and that it seems like she's stopped doing laundry. Ask her if she's been thinking about this and why she hasn't been taking care of herself? If you turn it into a discussion, she will have the opportunity to talk about it and won't feel attacked. You're her friend, and it's your job to look out for her—even if it's just making sure that she does her laundry.

Q: My friends are really embracing the senior washed up girl (SWUG) persona. How can I help them move past the SWUGly?—*Single and Still Ready to Mingle*
A: Ah yes, SWUG life has risen to fame in the last few years. Here's the thing: senior year is a pretty selfish time—everyone is trying to spend the limited time they have left only doing things that they feel like doing. And for some people, that's drinking wine while watching all of *Dawson's Creek*. The point is that they don't want to engage with the college scene and are ready for what's next. There's nothing wrong with that, but to get what you want, you've got to compromise. For every night you stay in with them watching the Franco-Rogen spoof of Kanye's "Bound" video for the gazillionth time, they have to come out with you and pretend you're a first-year in South. Maybe they'll even agree to come to the Rok. Who's to say?

Q: I have the case of the sophomore slump. My grades plummeted, my friends are nonexistent and I'm having a midlife crisis over what I should major in and what I want to do after college. I've lost all of the optimistic happiness that came with first-year fall. It's gotten to the point that I've started to look into schools to transfer to. But I love Hamilton, and I'm involved in a bunch of groups that I would be sad to leave. I'm willing to give it a second chance. Any advice on how to do that?—*The Old College Try*
A: As Amy Poehler once said, "The only thing you can depend upon is change." First-year fall is a fun time because you get to make a whole new set of friends and even reinvent yourself if you choose to. Then, sophomore year rolls around and you have to choose a major and have grown apart from the friends you made your first year. It sounds like your problems have nothing to do Hamilton, but are related to your paralyzing fear of the future. You need to make some changes, starting with your attitude. Stop focusing on how you have been doing poorly in school and make a plan for how you'll improve your grades. It's wonderful that you're so passionate about the groups you're involved in on campus. You should try to develop friendships with some of the people you've met through your extracurriculars, maybe by running for a leadership position or finding another way to gain some responsibility. Transferring to another school does give you the opportunity to start over again, but there's the chance that you will run into the same problems you have now. So, calm down, refocus and call me when you're 40 and actually having a mid-life crisis. Best of luck!

Q: I keep accidentally trash-talking the people I love. Help.—*Gossip Girl*
A: Nobody's perfect and sometimes we get frustrated with the people we care about because they're human, too. There's this horrible tendency for people to talk to everyone but the person they have a problem with. This is an issue for two reasons: a) you are putting down your friends and talking behind their backs, and b) you aren't solving whatever problem you have with your friend. Again, nobody's perfect, but it's so easy to change this kind of habit. My mom always said that if you're not going to say nice that you shouldn't say anything at all. Start catching yourself when you're about to turn the topic to something that's bugging you about your friends and stop yourself before you say anything. Then, consider approaching your friends about whatever your problem is. They'll appreciate your honesty, and you'll be one step closer to kicking the habit.

If you have a question you would like Anne to answer, you can submit it anonymously at https://my.hamilton.edu/survey-manager/survey?id=1921.

Majical Cloudz make performance personal

by Luke Ballmer '17

Arts & Entertainment Contributor

A popcorn machine malfunction set off the fire alarm, and Sadove's basement was evacuated. DJ William Skeng had just finished playing, and it was cold and snowing outside. This is how Saturday night's Majical Cloudz show began, and it would not cease being odd, exciting, mildly dangerous and beautiful. Vocalist Devon Welsh joked that the firemen scouring Sadove for the fire were part of their show's aesthetic, and may or may not be strippers. But the actual show was even more unusual and intimate, and those listening were thankful the only fire was in—forgive me—our hearts.

Devon Welsh and producer Matthew Otto, have made visceral, harrowing, honest, confessional and ultimately deeply empathetic songs on their last three records: this year's *Impersonator, II*, and the EP *Turns Turns Turns*. Welsh's voice is a deep, rich baritone, an unmatched powerhouse of feeling. Otto's sound is in turns rhythmic, ominous, catchy, skittering and always a perfect compliment to the directness of Welsh's lyrics and his black hole of a voice. The lyrical content can be direct and honest or abstract and surreal, but Welsh's voice always demands attention and elicits response.

But those unfamiliar with Majical Cloudz did not discover this for quite a while, as Welsh spent about 20 minutes talking to the handful of audience members not distracted by the fire or something else. He dubbed the nine or so audience members there at the beginning of the show the "Inner Circle" and let us know we were encouraged to stand where we wanted and ask of him whatever we wanted, all so long as we held to the pact that we don't leave. After shaking his hand, telling him our names, joking around and talking for a little longer, then finally moving about the room to find the best acoustics for our taste, he did not need to worry about the pact being broken. We were not going anywhere.

PHOTOS BY SEAN HENRY-SMITH '15

IMF hosted its second concert of the school year on Dec. 7.

The room may have vibrated, Welsh may have been correct about the room making the show feel like a clandestine radical political meeting and some audience members may have loudly chattered until they were politely asked to quiet down or leave ("I don't think that's asking too much," Welsh calmly reasoned), but it was a weirdly perfect show.

They played many songs from *Impersonator*, and I was thrilled they followed my request to play album standout "Childhood's End" twice in a row. While songs like "Silver Rings" and "I Do Sing For You" demonstrate the band's knack for creating songs resembling less ostentatious ballads, "Childhood's End," "Turns Turns Turns" and "Bugs Don't Buzz" showcase the bands skill at crafting rich, catchy and even groovy melodies. The dancing has been known to end with audience members breaking down in tears, but I do not think that lessens the experience.

Majical Cloudz stress, and insist upon, creating an intimate, human and ego-free concert experience. Welsh maintains direct eye contact with the audience, and serenaded more than one enraptured fan. He serenaded all of them. During the tender, "I Do Sing For You," Welsh and one fan moved closer and closer to each other, kneeled and smiled as lines like "I'm loving you" established a closer bond between performer and audience than anything I could imagine. And this is likely because that bond becomes irrelevant, useless, even severed, when such honesty and freedom is allowed. It is one heart singing to another, but only if you realize that the inclination to call such a sentiment gooey is destructive and false.

Later, Welsh compared the intimacy of the show to kissing someone. This led, of course, to a natural, funny and fitting kiss with one volunteer in the audience.

Even without kissing, though, the audience couldn't have felt any closer to Majical Cloudz that night.

Besides talking with Welsh about ambient music for half an hour after the show, my favorite moment was his reaction to one altered fan's "Freebird" request. He said it reminded him of the story when a fan requested the song during a difficult part of his life and he began crying on stage, doubting his skill, direction and worth. Welsh introduced himself, asked his name and the hyperactive audience member apologized. This story was told without venom, the audience member approached with genuine love.

Jukebox the Ghost throws a pop dance party in the Barn

PHOTOS BY HANNAH LIPSET '14

Javed '15 debuts first full-length film

by Brian Burns '17
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The Door in the Wall, heralded as Hamilton's first feature film, is not the impenetrable art film its marketing materials would suggest. In fact, it is for the most part a traditional tragic love story with a supernatural twist. Though it is heavy on the melodrama, *The Door in the Wall* is thoughtful in its examination of themes such as love and the blurred line between reality and fantasy.

When college student Dan (Tommy Blanchard '17) falls in love with Leo (Dominic Veconi '15), he discovers that his beloved has a surprising secret. That secret, inspired by the works of H.G. Wells, is that a door to a magical realm (possibly heaven, but it is left ambiguous) once appeared to Leo as a boy. The door suddenly reappears as the relationship between Dan and Leo continues to develop, causing complications for both lovers.

Blanchard is the soulful heart of the film. His expressive eyes articulate Dan's happiness just as easily as they bear tears. Veconi remains more of an enigma for most of the film, which is fitting because the first half is mostly from Dan's point of view. However, as Leo opens up to Dan through flashbacks he becomes less of an object of desire and more of a character. Veconi truly brings Leo to life in a heart-wrenching scene in which the door appears to him as he is performing a song onstage. Connie Murray '15 as Kate does not have the same opportunities as her co-leads to showcase her emotional range, but she remains solid as Dan's cheeky and dependable friend.

The romantic scenes between Dan and Leo can easily dip into cliché; there is even a *10 Things I Hate About You*-style epiphany-via-poetry reading by the time the credits roll. However, despite the potentially trite situations these, scenes feel honest. This is mostly due to the fact that Veconi and Blanchard are cute as hell together. Even though witnessing the blossoming love is slow, it is good to see a film revel in portraying a relationship's foundation.

The direction by Asad Javed '15, who also wrote the screenplay, is smooth and coherent. Scenes with potentially problematic lighting, such as a first date between Dan and Leo in a gazebo lit only by candles, are surprisingly clear.

That said, the film is in need of some fine-tuning. Some scenes tend to drag, and it is clear that the film could do well to shave off a few minutes of bloat. The score can also be a bit oppressive with its overuse of opera pieces. The film's climax is by far its strongest point, thanks to its strong visuals that will leave an indelible mark upon the viewer.

The Door in the Wall is a decisively meditative film. It takes time and care in pondering the emotional reality of its characters. Javed is clearly a talented burgeoning filmmaker, and *The Door in the Wall* is a profound debut. As he continues to refine his voice, Javed will surely be an artist to watch in the future.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ASAD JAVED '15

Scenes from Javed's film which premiered Sunday.

24 Hour Film Festival

First Place

The Grand Desserts

Directed by Isabella Schoning '16

by Lucas Phillips '16
Arts & Entertainment Editor

This audience favorite, filmed in cinéma vérité, depicted a successful heist of President Stewart's preferred desserts from Commons. The Blond Genius (Ian Antonoff '16) and the Mastermind (Andy Chen '16) team up with seductress Bella (Isabella Schoning '16) to sneak past the card swiper and bodyguard (Zach Pilson '16) protecting the them. Chen's acrobatics, cat noises and poor schmoozing abilities kept the audience laughing. The highlight of the film was watching Chen and Antonoff run out the doors of Commons with two big trays of pastries to the bewilderment of onlookers. But, as we all know, such confections are not all they are chalked up to be.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ISABELLA SCHONING '16

2nd Place

Jersey Hill

Directed by Tshering Sherpa '16
Reality

3rd Place

Digital Love

Directed by Eunice Lee '16
Silent Film

4th Place

E.M.T. Phone Home

Directed by Max Newman '16
Sci-Fi

WHCL CORNER

Show Profile:

John McB & Johnny D

Friday at noon
with

John McBratney '16
&
Johnny Deguardi '16

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"Stacy's Mom" but there's nothing guilty about it.

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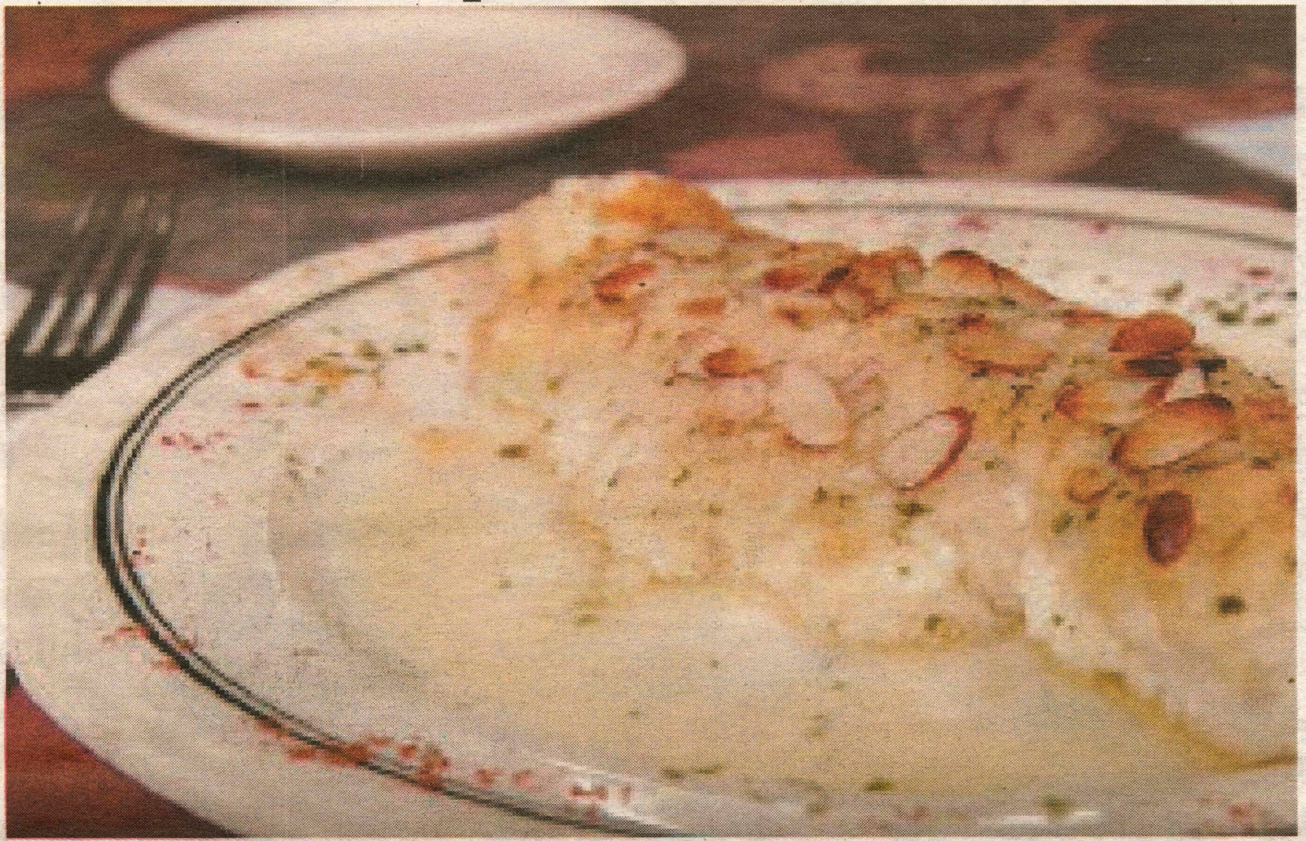

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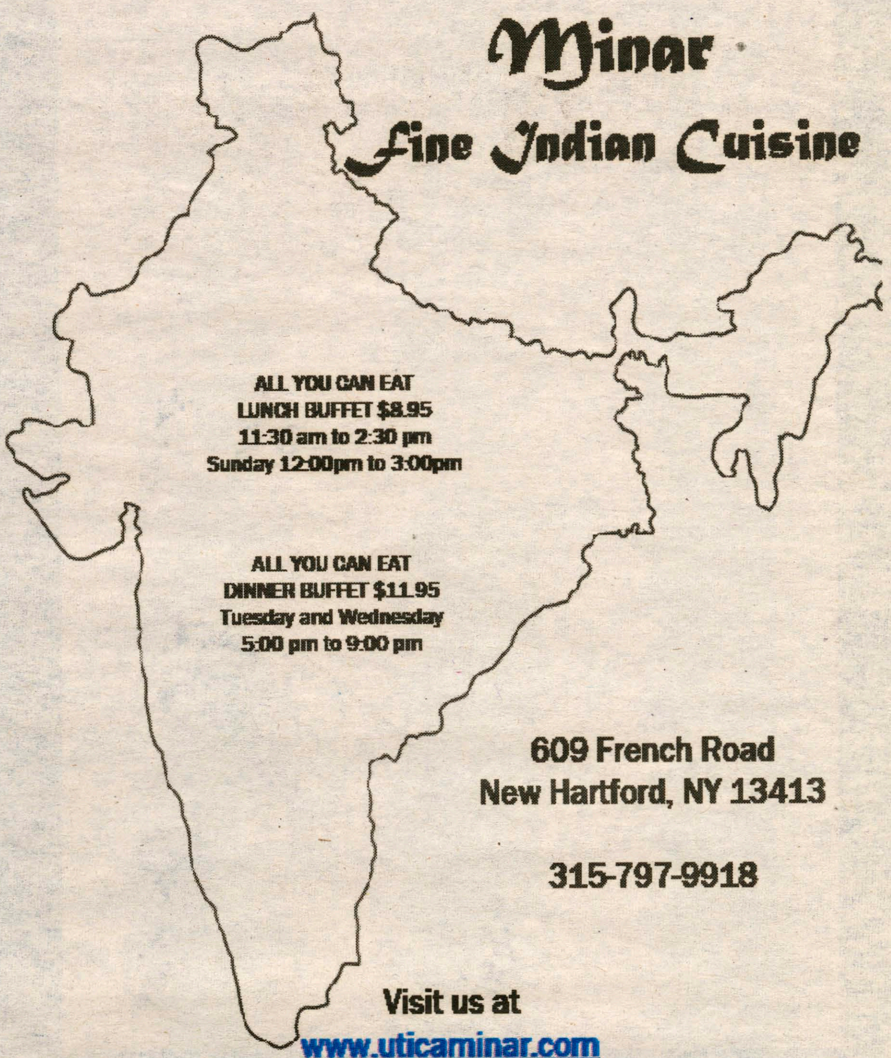

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Track & Field strong at Brockport Invitational

*from **T & F,** page 16*

looking forward to seeing her top herself again and again."

The teams will have a healthy mix of first-years and experienced seniors.

Tifft threw his way to third place at the early season meet and will provide crucial points from the field events. Jake London '14 is an athlete capable of excelling in a variety of events, such as the 200, 4 x 100 and high jump. First-year Yuwen Michelson jumped 5.18 meters in the long jump, which already qualified her for the prestigious ECAC meet. She also sprinted to an 8.49 second finish in the 80 meters. Senior Captain Clare O'Grady said Michelson is someone to watch out for this season: "She's been pacing most of our sprinting workouts throughout the preseason, and we're excited to see what she can accomplish as the season progresses."

> "The team seems healthy and people are ready to compete."
> —*Margaret Doolin '14*

The first meet for the entire team will take place at Colgate University on Jan. 18. This season offers the Hamilton community two opportunities to watch the team's athletes at the Field House. The Continentals will compete at home in the Hamilton Invitational on Jan. 25 and the Continental Invitational on Feb. 15. The team will later travel to Ithaca for Cornell's Robert Kane Invitational on Feb. 1 and Boston's Reggie Lewis Center for the ECAC Divison III Championships on March 7 and 8. Those who qualify for the national Division III Championship meet will look forward to travelling to the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

The captains and seniors on the team hold a shared buoyancy about the upcoming season and are poised to lead a team that will hit the ground running after winter break. As Tifft said, "it should be an exciting season for the entire team with a lot of people improving on their accomplishments from last year."

Doolin explained that although the Conts lost several key seniors last year, "the team seems healthy and people are ready to compete."

Ohanesian agreed, adding, "I expect a lot of state qualifiers for indoor across all of the events, and hopefully many of us will qualify for ECACs this year as well."

Based on the athletes' performances thus far, the rest of the season is looking bright for the men's and women's indoor track and field teams.

PHOTO COUTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

Joe Jensen '15 tied the school record in the 60 yard dash.

Continental Sports Highlights

Men's & Women's Swimming

Reid Swartz '15, Conor Collins '14, Ryan Cassidy '17 and John McBratney '16 set the pool record at Trinity College in the 800 Freestyle Relay with a 7:16.30. Maggie Rosenbaum '14 also set a pool record in the 50 Backstroke with a 27.87.

Women's Squash (4-1)

With three shut-outs against Wellesley, Conn. College and Colgate, women's squash is off to a booming start and is currently ranked 16th in the nation. Two weeks ago, Hannah Coffin '14 was named Harrow Sports College Player of the Week. Coffin won a five-game match, which helped to elevate the Conts to a 5-4 win against 12th ranked Middlebury on Nov. 23.

Women's Ice Hockey (2-4-1)

Sarah Schuchardt '15 recorded 21 saves in the Conts 2-1 victory over SUNY Oswego on Nov. 26.

Men's Ice Hockey (3-3-1)

The team is currently riding a three-game win streak. Mike DiMare '14 scored a goal and added two assists as Hamilton defeated Middlebury 4-3 at Sage Rink.

Men's Squash (4-3)

The team shut out Stanford University 9-0 on Nov. 16 and Colgate on Dec. 8. With these wins, the team ranks 24th nationally. A highlight of the season thus far was their 8-1 win against Hobart College on Dec. 6. Martin Bawden '14 held first position as an 11-3, 11-6, 13-11 winner. Overall, the Conts won six matches in three games last Friday.

Men's Basketball (5-2)

Matt Hart '16 scored 21 second-half points including the game-winner in Hamilton's 82-80 comeback victory over Morrisville State on Dec. 10.

H SPECTATOR SPORTS

December 12, 2013

Women’s b-ball brings youthful talent to the court

by Sterling Xie ’16
Sports Writer

With just two seniors on the roster, the Hamilton women’s basketball team makes up one of the youngest teams in the NESCAC. The Continentals currently sit at 4-4 and have had a varied start to its season, alternating between wins and losses in their first eight games. However, growing experience has already produced impressive results: for example, the team’s four losses so far have not been by more than ten points each, and the Conts hope to bolster their ranking with wins in upcoming NESCAC games this coming January.

Indeed, it is encouraging that the young Continentals are not simply scraping by, but rather demonstrating the talent that could make Hamilton viable NESCAC contenders this season. In a recent four-game homestand, the Conts earned a smothering 60-44 win over Utica College and a 76-69 overtime triumph against SUNY Potsdam, but also suffered a 77-67 overtime loss to Skidmore College and a narrow 54-51 defeat against Union College.

Guard Serena Ward ’16 has been one of the breakout starsso far this season. Ward has more than doubled her minutes per game as part of an expanded role, something that would typically balloon counting statistics, like points, rebounds and assists. However, the sophomore has drastically improved her efficiency even with increased shots, shooting a blistering 48.9 percent from three-point range, the second-highest mark in the NESCAC.

Ward attributes her red-hot shooting to the confidence she has gained from an increased level of trust from her teammates. “I think the reason I’ve appeared to improve is because I took on a different role on the team this year,” she said. “I ran the same plays last year, took the same shots, but there wasn’t as much of an emphasis on needing those few points because we had some very talented seniors. This year, I have the support of my teammates who know that I can make those shots. That helps confidence levels a lot when your team is behind you.”

Besides Ward, the Continentals have benefited from sophomores Sam Graber and Carly Gruenberg, who are also thriving in expanded roles. With 17.4 points per game, Graber is the Conts’ leading scorer and the second-leading scorer in the NESCAC, while Gruenberg has been one of the team’s best all-around players, averaging 9.6 points, 4.1 rebounds and 1.9 assists per game, all while shooting a robust 50.9 percent. Ward, Graber and Gruenberg played a starring role in Hamilton’s most recent game, a wire-to-wire 66-46 romp over Alfred University. The sophomore trio combined for 35 points and 16 rebounds, while also notching 14 of the team’s 23 field goals.

Hamilton may have arguably its most talented team in its brief NESCAC era this year. While the beginning of the season may have followed an on-and-off trend of wins and losses, there is no reason that youth will hold the Conts back from making their first playoff appearance in the conference.

According to Ward, “I think our youth could be one factor in the inconsistency, since roles of players are evolving with each game and we are still getting to know each other.” She continued, “These out-of-conference games are learning experiences, for the team as well as the coaches. We’ve had a lot of close games and I think that being able to stay with teams and eventually beat them will pay off at the end of the season.”

The Continentals have roughly a month before the grind of the NESCAC schedule begins on Jan. 10, which will be an away game against Amherst. Hamilton is still working towards establishing a strong footing in the conference, but with ample preparation time, the Continentals are on their way to making long strides this season.

PHOTO BY BETH COMATOS ’15

Guard Carly Gruenberg ’16 drives against SUNY New Paltz in Hamilton’s 62-46 win on Tuesday.

Indoor Track & Field hits the ground running

by Yoshi Hill ’15
Sports Writer

The winter months in central New York usher in freezing conditions and perpetual slush that force runners indoors. Finding refuge in the Margaret Bundy Scott Field House, the athletes of the indoor track team commenced their training after Thanksgiving break and have begun to prepare for meets that will take them all over the northeastern United States.

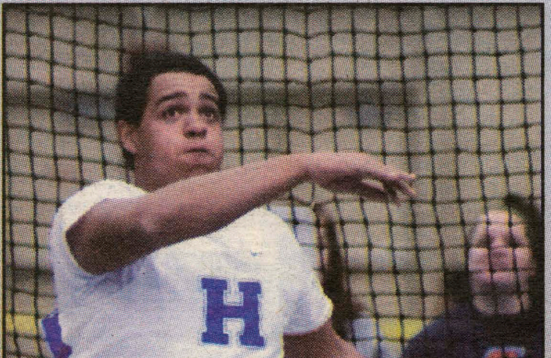
PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

Will Tifft ’14 placed third in the 35-pound weight throw at Brockport.

The teams, first of all, can be assured of the contributions of three members who represented Hamilton at NCAA Division III Championships in Hanover, Indiana at the beginning of Thanksgiving break. On the women’s side, Adrian Walsh ’16 and Sarah Ohanesian ’14 finished 57th and 76th, respectively out of 280 of Division III’s finest runners. On the men’s side, sophomore Adam Pfander raced to a 66th place finish also out of 280 runners. Senior Scott Etkin was excited to see Pfander race in a different environment and believes that his teammate can maintain the momentum he built up in the fall. All three runners hope to translate their incredible results to score highly in the long-distance events.

Several multi-sport athletes must quickly shift gears and adapt to a new season. Junior Joe Jensen, a wide receiver on the football team and Rookie of the Meet at last years’ New York State Collegiate Track Conference Championships, will be vital to the team’s success with his prowess in the shorter sprint events. Etkin called him “an athlete who deserves the attention of the Hamilton community at all times,” and stressed that Jensen still has room for improvement. At an early season meet at SUNY Brockport on Dec. 7, he ended the day first in the 300-meter dash in a facility record 36.24 seconds and matched a school record in the 60-meter dash, crossing the finish line in 7.13 seconds. Senior Will Tifft commented, “he did very well last year at the state meet and I’m sure he’ll only improve this season.”

> “It should be an exciting season for the entire team with a lot of people improving on their accomplishments from last year.”
> —*Will Tifft ’14*

Senior Sampson Reider, a defender on the soccer team, will look to dominate the 500 meters again after his second place finishes of last year at the NYSCTC and Eastern College Athletic Conference meets. Lastly, Hannah Jaiven ’14 somehow balanced a Friday night ice hockey game against Utica College and managed to break a program record in the pole vault the next day.

“Hannah Jaiven just broke the Hamilton indoor pole vault record by clearing a height of 10’10’ at our opening meet this past Saturday at SUNY Brockport,” senior Captain Margaret Doolin said. Although Jaiven will not be a full-time track team member until the spring season due to her role on the ice hockey team, Doolin added that “she is definitely someone to watch.” Doolin also praised first-year Merisa Dion, who topped her high school personal best by more than two feet in the long jump last weekend. Doolin said “she has a lot of positive energy and practices hard, and we’re

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